Statement-III

The steps taken by the Government to protect the endangered wila animals include.

i. Hunting of Scheduled wild animals has been banned by law.

ii. Central assistance is provided to State/UT Govts. for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure.

iii. Special schemes for protection and conservation of tigers, elephants and rhinos and their habitat is being implemented.

iv. Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals reaches them.

v. A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Govt. for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

vi. International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

vii. Regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

viii. Cooperation of Police, Border Security Force, Coast Guard and Army is also taken in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders.

ix. There is a scheme for payment of reward to the informers, which among other things, helps in getting intelligence regarding smuggling of wildlife products.

x. A scheme of eco-developent has also been launched to reduce the biotic pressure on the area and winning over the support of local people to the aspect of wildlife conservation.

Measures to protect 'Parrots'

4577. SYED SIBETEY RAZI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain reports in some columns of Press which appeared on the 27th March, 1994 indicating extinction of "Talking Parrots" from its natural habitat in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures to ensure protection of this rare species of parrots popularly known as 'Hirman Tota'; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is true that 'Talking Parrots' are found in Gargon fort and neighbouring areas of Jhalwar Distt. (Rajasthan) and adjoining Districts as well, but is not on the verge of extinction.

(c) and (d) The Government has included this species in Schedule-IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and killing of this species banned under the Act.